

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the present application.

**Listing of Claims:**

**Claims 1-13 (Cancelled) without prejudice or disclaimer.**

**Claim 14 (Currently Amended):** A method of producing an immersible fire retardant paper, the method comprising the steps of introducing kraft paper to a fire retardant resinous compound comprising the steps of:

adding a fire retardant compound borax and diammonium phosphate with to a portion of a fire retardant resin to form a partial mixture, the fire retardant compound comprising borax and diammonium phosphate and said resin being part of a base resin bath;

maintaining the pH of said partial mixture at a prescribed level by adding a solution buffer containing sodium hydroxide to form a stabilized partial mixture;

mixing said fire retardant compound and borax and diammonium phosphate with said solution buffer and with said portion of the fire retardant resin;

adding the remaining portion of the fire retardant resin to said stabilized partial mixture to form a fire retardant resinous compound; and

impregnating a kraft paper with said fire retardant resinous compound to form an produce said immersible fire retardant paper.

**Claim 15 (Cancelled) without prejudice or disclaimer.**

**Claim 16 (Currently Amended):** A The method of claim 14 wherein the said step of adding a solution buffer containing sodium hydroxide occurs at the same time as the simultaneous with said step of adding borax and diammonium phosphate with a fire retardant compound to a portion of a fire retardant resin.

**Claim 17 (Cancelled) without prejudice or disclaimer.**

**Claim 18 (New):** The method of claim 14 wherein the pH of said partial mixture is maintained at a level greater than 9.0.

**Claim 19 (New):** The method of claim 16 wherein simultaneous addition of the solution buffer and the fire retardant compound produces a gelatinous compound.

**Claim 20 (New):** The method of claim 19 further comprising the step of adding the gelatinous compound to the base resin bath.

**Claim 21 (New):** The method of claim 20 wherein the gelatinous compound is added at a rate of about 3-6%/volume and with vigorous agitation.

**Claim 22 (New):** The method of claim 21 wherein a condensation reaction takes place to form trimethylolphenol.

**Claim 23 (New):** The method of claim 22 wherein the resin system is cured at a temperature of about 140°C to about 150°C for about 5 minutes.

**Claim 24 (New):** The method of claim 23 wherein the cured resin system results in the formation of phenol formaldehyde resin.

**Claim 25 (New):** A method of producing an immersible fire retardant paper, the method comprising the steps of:

    adding a fire retardant compound to a portion of a resin to form a partial mixture, the fire retardant compound comprising borax and diammonium phosphate and said resin being part of a base resin bath;

    maintaining the pH of said partial mixture at a level greater than 9.0 by adding a solution buffer containing sodium hydroxide to form a stabilized partial mixture;

    mixing said fire retardant compound and said solution buffer with said portion of the resin;

    adding the remaining portion of the resin to said stabilized partial mixture to form a fire retardant resinous compound; and

    impregnating a kraft paper with said fire retardant resinous compound to produce said immersible fire retardant paper;

wherein said step of adding a solution buffer containing sodium hydroxide occurs simultaneous with said step of adding a fire retardant compound to a portion of a resin.

**Claim 26 (New):** The method of claim 25 wherein simultaneous addition of the solution buffer and the fire retardant compound produces a gelatinous compound.

**Claim 27 (New):** The method of claim 26 further comprising the step of adding the gelatinous compound to the base resin bath.

**Claim 28 (New):** The method of claim 27 wherein the gelatinous compound is added at a rate of about 3-6%/volume and with vigorous agitation.

**Claim 29 (New):** The method of claim 28 wherein a condensation reaction takes place to form trimethylolphenol.

**Claim 30 (New):** The method of claim 29 wherein the resin system is cured at a temperature of about 140°C to about 150°C for about 5 minutes.

**Claim 31 (New):** The method of claim 30 wherein the cured resin system results in the formation of phenol formaldehyde resin.

**Claim 32 (New):** A method of producing an immersible fire retardant paper, the method comprising the steps of:

    adding a fire retardant compound to a portion of a resin to form a partial mixture, the fire retardant compound comprising borax and diammonium phosphate and said resin being part of a base resin bath;

    maintaining the pH of said partial mixture at a level greater than 9.0 by adding a solution buffer containing sodium hydroxide to form a stabilized partial mixture;

    wherein said step of adding a solution buffer containing sodium hydroxide occurs simultaneous with said step of adding a fire retardant compound to a portion of a resin to produce a gelatinous compound;

    adding the gelatinous compound to the base resin bath;

    subjecting the base resin bath to a temperature of about 140°C to about 150°C for a time sufficient to cure the resin;

    mixing said fire retardant compound and said solution buffer with said resin;

    adding the remaining portion of the resin to said stabilized partial mixture to form a fire retardant resinous compound; and

    impregnating a kraft paper with said fire retardant resinous compound to produce said immersible fire retardant paper.

**Claim 33 (New):** The method of claim 32 wherein the cured resin system includes the formation of phenol formaldehyde resin.